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The Kennedy administration's Secretary of Defense-designate, Robert S. McNamara, has named two long-time career Government employees to Pentagon jobs.

Mr. McNamara yesterday chose Nils A. Lennartson, 45, now Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, to be Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Norman S. Paul, now legislative counsel for the Central Intelligence Agency, was appointed assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

Mr. Paul has worked as a Government employee since 1948, when he went to work for the Economic Co-operation Administration — then the Foreign Aid Agency. He stayed in that field until he moved to the CIA five years ago.

Mr. Lennartson will serve as an assistant to Arthur Sylvester, who recently was designated by President-elect Kennedy to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Mr. Lennartson for six years was a reporter with the Guy Gannett newspapers at Portland, Me., and spent several years in public relations work.

He entered Government service in 1948 as a public relations specialist for the Air Force. With the beginning of the Eisenhower administration, Mr. Lennartson was director of information for the Department of Commerce. For the past three years he has been chief of public information for the Treasury Department.

Mr. Lennartson's wife is the former Emily Weston of Skohegan, Me.

Mr. Paul is married to the former Bettie Huffard of Charlottesville, Va.